

Interpreter Qualification Project

Department of Social Services

Department of Health &
Environmental Control

Purpose

The purpose of the Interpreter Qualification Project (IQP) is to provide testing and training for bilingual workers and individuals from the community who are interested in interpreting for DHEC and/or DSS. IQP is **NOT** a certification program. Successful completion of this testing/training program will assure a participant meets only the DSS/DHEC interpreter criteria and is eligible to interpret for DSS/DHEC. The test scores are provided to DHEC and DSS and are used by the agency to determine if an individual is qualified to interpret for the agency. Each participant will also receive a copy of his/her scores by mail.

This training will teach the role of the interpreter, oral interpreting skills, sight translating skills, some specialized terminology in public health and social services, the impact of culture on interpreting, and the ethics of interpreting. On the last day participants will be tested on all the training content and on their translating and interpreting abilities. Participants will also be given an Interpreter Code of Ethics to sign that defines the professional standards that the agencies will expect from them as an interpreter.

Standards

- Only persons sponsored by DHEC or DSS are invited to participate in IQP.
- Participants must pass the Language Proficiency Test with a minimum score in each category in order to be invited to participate in IQP training:
 - English Written 80%
 - English Oral 80%
 - Spanish Written 80%
 - Spanish Oral 80%
- Participants, who fail any portion of the Language Proficiency test, must retake the entire test - No partial testing will be administered.
- Participants who are qualified based on their Language Proficiency test scores will be invited to the Interpreter Qualification Training and Testing.
- Interpreter Qualification Training and Testing participants must attend the entire training session in order to take the Interpreter Qualification Test that is offered following the training.
- Interpreter Qualification participants will receive a letter containing their interpreter knowledge and skills scores and a small text translation score and DHEC and DSS agency guidelines which provide information on how these scores are being used to determine a person's qualifications as an interpreter for the agency. The minimum acceptable scores to be considered qualified as an interpreter for DHEC and DSS are:
 - Oral Test 80%
 - Knowledge Test 80%
 - Small Text Translation 90%

- DHEC and DSS will receive copies of each participant's scores so that each agency can determine if an individual is qualified to interpret for the agency.
- Participants, who fail any portion of the Interpreter Qualification test, must retake the entire training and participate in the full test-No partial testing or testing without attending the entire training session will be administered.

Original November 25,2003 Finalized December 5, 2003

IQP Grading Methods

INTERPRETING QUALIFICATION SCORE

To become qualified for interpreting the candidate must score 80 or above in each the Interpreting Knowledge and the Interpreting Skill.

Interpreting Knowledge: This score will be based on the participant's answers on a written exam. The exam consists of 20 multiple-choice questions that may have one or more short answers. Each answer is worth 4 points.

Interpreting Skill: This score will be based on three oral portions of the test to arrive at a single numerical score. Scoring is based on:

1. English to Spanish and
2. Spanish to English sight translations.

Each is based on a 100-point scale accounting for two of the scoring components. Scoring for each is based on:

- Delivery (Projection of voice, proper intonation, enunciation, smooth pacing)
- Grammar (Proper verb tense, word endings, agreements)
- Accuracy (Appropriate vocabulary, expressing meaning completely and accurately in target language.)

3. Consecutive interpretation will be scored separately based on a 100-point scale. Scoring is based on:

- Introduction of self and process
- First person usage
- Grammar (Proper verb tense, word endings, agreements)
- Delivery (Voice projection, proper intonation, enunciation, smooth pacing)
- Appropriate use of note taking
- Accuracy (Express meaning with no additions or omissions)
- Register and Tone (Accurately matches that of speaker)
- Cultural Framework (Informs provider of important cultural information)

Scores are weighted by counting the consecutive interpretation score three times (60%) and each of the sight translation scores one time (20%) to arrive at the final Interpreting Skill score.

SMALL TEXT TRANSLATION QUALIFICATION SCORE

To become qualified small text translation the candidate must score 90 or above on this two-part test.

The English to Spanish written translation and the Spanish to English written translation will be scored separately on a 50-point scale each. The scores for each is based on:

- 25pts. Grammar (verb tense, word endings, vocabulary choices, spelling, sentence structure)
- 25pts. Conceptual Accuracy

The scores English to Spanish and Spanish to English scores will be combined to determine the overall written translation score.